



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

THE SECRETARY

March 22, 2004

Dr. John Graham
Administrator
Office of Information and
Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

Re: RESPA Final Rule (RIN 2502-AH85)

Dear Dr. Graham:

The Administration is strongly committed to efforts to simplify, improve, and lower costs associated with obtaining home mortgages. However, due to the significant number of questions raised about the draft final RESPA rule referenced above, I write today to advise the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has decided to withdraw the above referenced rule from OMB review.

Since I began my tenure as Acting Secretary, I have heard from a number of members of Congress, on a bipartisan basis, who voiced concerns about not receiving the benefit of a full briefing of the RESPA rule before HUD sent it to OMB. In addition, I have heard from key members of a number of consumer and industry groups who have expressed concerns that echo those of Congress.

Based upon the concerns noted above, I believe that it would be prudent for HUD to reexamine the RESPA rule before it is made final. I plan to revise the rule, if necessary, and to re-propose the rule, requesting additional comments, after I have had an opportunity to brief members of Congress and to meet with affected consumer and industry groups. After the rule has had a complete vetting, I will send it back to OMB for review.

I appreciate the dedication of you and your staff in assisting HUD with the development of this important rule. If you have any comments that you believe would be helpful to HUD as it continues to review and analyze this important rule, feel free to share them with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alphonso Jackson".

Alphonso Jackson
Acting Secretary